

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Birds

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome to Birding at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge is internationally recognized as 'a birder's paradise.' Santa Ana's 2,088 acres of subtropical thorn forest are home for numerous birds that are South Texas specialties. Both the Mississippi and Central flyways converge in this region adding the opportunity to see a wide variety of migratory birds. Many migrants depend upon this refuge as a place to escape harsh winters or as a rest-area while enroute to their seasonal destinations. Both migratory and resident species seen here allow birders to lengthen their 'life-list' whether expert or just starting out. Birdwatching at Santa Ana is best along the walking trails early in the morning or just before sunset. The best months for birdwatching are November through April. For more information, please contact our visitor center staff. Good Birding!

Neotropical migrant landbirds are those species of landbirds that nest in the United States or Canada, and spend the winter primarily south of our border in Mexico, Central or South America, or in the Caribbean. Many of them, including conspicuous or colorful hawks, hummingbirds, warblers, and tanagers, and less colorful but no less important flycatchers, thrushes, and vireos, are experiencing population declines due to widespread loss of habitats important for their survival. Pre-servation of many different habitats for nesting, wintering, and migratory stopover sites is becoming vital for the survival of many of these birds

This list contains 403 species which have been observed at Santa Ana NWR plus 9 hypothetical species, listed in accordance with the seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, (1998) and its supplements through July 2008. Please report sightings listed as 'O', 'R', or 'X' to refuge staff.

How to use your checklist

Symbols used in this list are defined as follows:



Great Kiskadees./usfws

Sp - Spring - period of spring migration (depending on species) from mid-February to early June

- Summer - June to August

- Fall period of fall migration (depending on species) from mid-July to November
- **W** Winter December to February

Abundance

- Abundant: a common and numerous species

- Common: certain to be seen in suitable habitat

U - Uncommon: present, but not certain to be seen

- Occasional: seen only a few times during a season

R - Rare: seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

X - Accidental: has been seen only once or twice

Nests on the refuge

or endangered species.

Exotic or introduced species

Species of uncertain origin or escaped captivity

Underlined bird names indicate South Texas specialties. Italicized bird names indicate threatened **Ducks, Geese, and Swans**

Blk-bellied Whistling Due	<u>:k</u> *	U	\mathbf{C}	UO
Fulvous Whistling Duck*	U	O	O	0
Gr. White-fronted Goose	\mathbf{R}	-	\mathbf{R}	0
Snow Goose	O	-	O	O
Snow Goose (Blue Goose)	O	-	O	O
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	X
Canada Goose	O	-	O	O
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	X
Muscovy Duck	\mathbf{R}	-	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}
Wood Duck	X	-	X	X
Gadwall	\mathbf{C}	X	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
American Wigeon	U	-	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
American Black Duck	-	-	-	X
Mallard	-	-	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}
Mottled Duck*	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
Blue-winged Teal	\mathbf{C}	O	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
Cinnamon Teal	O	-	O	O
Northern Shoveler	U	-	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
Northern Pintail	U	-	U	\mathbf{C}
Green-winged Teal	O	-	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
Canvasback	\mathbf{R}	-	\mathbf{R}	R
Redhead	\mathbf{R}	-	\mathbf{R}	R
Ring-necked Duck	U	-	U	U
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	X
Lesser Scaup	O	-	O	U
Bufflehead	\mathbf{R}	-	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}
Common Goldeneye	-	-	X	X
Hooded Merganser	\mathbf{R}	-	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	X	-
Masked Duck	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}	R	R
Ruddy Duck	0	R	U	U

Sp S F W	Sp S F W	Sp S F W
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Curassows and Guans					Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies (continued) Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
Plain Chachalaca *	Α	A	A	A		2	_	R	R
New World Quail)		0	
Scaled Quail	_	_	_	X)		0	
Northern Bobwhite*	U	U		U)	-	R	
Loons					Golden Eagle X Herring Gull -	-	-	-	X
Common Loon	-	-	X	X	=)	O	0	O
Grebes					Crested Caracara O O O O Gull-billed Tern C)	O	R	R
<u>Least Grebe</u> *	U	U	U	U	American Kestrel U - U U Caspian Tern C)	-	0	O
Pied-billed Grebe *	\mathbf{C}	U	С	\mathbf{C})	\mathbf{R}	0	-
Eared Grebe	O	-	0	O	——————————————————————————————————————	-	-	R	-
Western Grebe	-	-	-	X	Peregrine Falcon O - O O Forster's Tern O)	R	0	O
Pelicans					Prairie Falcon XRoyal Tern -	- 1	\mathbf{R}	R	-
American White Pelican	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}	0	O	Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Sandwich Tern -	-	O	R	-
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	\mathbf{X}	Yellow Rail X XBlack Skimmer F	?	\mathbf{R}	0	\mathbf{R}
Cormorants					Clapper Rail X Pigeons and Doves				
Neotropic Cormorant	U	U	U	U	King Rail R R R RRock Pigeon*^ U	J	U	U	U
Double-cr. Cormorant	O	R	U	U	Virginia Rail O <u>Red-billed Pigeon</u> F	?	\mathbf{R}	R	R
Darters					Sora U R U UEurasian Collared-Dove ^		O	0	RO
Anhinga	U	U	0	O	Purple Gallinule* O U R - White-winged Dove* A	Α.	A	\mathbf{C}	U
Frigatebirds					Common Moorhen* C C C C Mourning Dove*	\mathcal{I}	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
Magnificent Frigatebird	-	X	-	-	American Coot* C U C C Inca Dove*	J	U	U	U
Herons, Bitterns, and Allies					Cranes Common Ground-Dove* C	\mathcal{I}	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	U
American Bittern	\mathbf{R}	X	\mathbf{R}	R	Sandhill Crane R - R O Ruddy Ground-Dove R	2	-	R	R
Least Bittern*	U	U	0	O	Plovers White-tipped Dove*	3	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
Great Blue Heron	U	O	U	U	Black-bellied Plover R - RRinged Turtle-Dove ^ -	- :	X	-	-
Great Egret	\mathbf{C}	U	U	U	American Golden-Plover R - R - Parakeets, Macaws, and Parrots	;			
Snowy Egret	U	O	U	U	Semipalmated Plover R Budgerigar ^ -	-	-	X	-
Little Blue Heron	U	O	U	O		- :	\mathbf{R}	R	R
Tricolored Heron	U	\mathbf{R}	U	U	Killdeer* U C C U Canary-winged Parakeet^		-	-	- X
Reddish Egret	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}	0	O	Mountain Plover X X Military Macaw ^ -	-	-	-	X
Cattle Egret	U	R	0	O	Stilts and Avocets Red-crowned Parrot	?	R	R	R
Green Heron*	U	U	0	U	Black-necked Stilt* C C C C Red-lored Parrot ^ -	- :	R	R	R
Black-cr. Night-Heron	0	-	0	U	American Avocet O - O O Yellow-headed Parrot ^ -	-	-	R	R
Yellow-cr. Night-Heron	U	U	U	U	Jacanas Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis	;			
Ibises and Spoonbills					Northern Jacana R R R R RYellow-billed Cuckoo* C	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	R
White Ibis	U	O	-	-	Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies Mangrove Cuckoo -	- :	X	-	-
Glossy Ibis	-	-	-	X	Spotted Sandpiper O O O UBlack-billed Cuckoo U	J	-	U	-
White-faced Ibis	U	O	U	U	Solitary Sandpiper O O O UGreater Roadrunner* U	J	U	U	U
Roseate Spoonbill	O	O	0	O	Greater Yellowlegs U O O U <u>Groove-billed Ani</u> * C	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	U	O
Storks					Willet R - R R Barn Owls				
Wood Stork	U	O	U	-	Lesser Yellowlegs C O U UBarn Owl* C)	O	0	O
New World Vultures					Upland Sandpiper R U R - Typical Owls				
Black Vulture	U	O	U	U	Long-billed Curlew O - O OEastern Screech-Owl* U	J.	U	U	U
Turkey Vulture	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	С	\mathbf{C}	Hudsonian Godwit XGreat Horned Owl* U	J	U	U	U
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Alli	es				Marbled Godwit R - R RFerruginous Pygmy-Owl*F	2	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}	
Osprey	O	\mathbf{R}	0	O	Sanderling RElf Owl* C	\mathcal{I}	\mathbf{C}	R	-
<u>Hook-billed Kite</u> *	U	U	U	U	Semipalmated Sandpiper O - O RBurrowing Owl -	-	-	Χ	
Swallow-tailed Kite	O	-	\mathbf{R}	-	Western Sandpiper O - O OBarred Owl -	-	-	\mathbf{R}	R
White-tailed Kite*	U	U	U	U	Least Sandpiper U U U ULong-eared Owl F	?	-	-	
Mississippi Kite	U	-	U	-	White-rumped SandpiperO - XShort-eared Owl -	-	-	X	R
Bald Eagle	-	-		\mathbf{X}	Baird's Sandpiper O - O R Goatsuckers				
Northern Harrier	O	-	0	O	Pectoral Sandpiper O - O - Lesser Nighthawk* C)	O	0	R
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	-	U	U	Dunlin R - R RCommon Nighthawk* U	J	U	U	-
Cooper's Hawk	\mathbf{C}		U	U		J.	U	U	U
Northern Goshawk	X	-	X	-	Stilt Sandpiper O O O OCommon Poorwill R	?	-	X	X
Crane Hawk		-		\mathbf{X})	-	O	
Common Black-Hawk	X	-	X	\mathbf{X})	-	R	-
Gray Hawk*	U	U	U	U	Long-billed Dowitcher U O O C Swifts				
Harris's Hawk*	\mathbf{C}	U	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}		J	O	U	-
Roadside Hawk		-		X	American Woodcock R R				
Red-shouldered Hawk*	U	O		U	Wilson's Phalarope O - O X				
Broad-winged Hawk	\mathbf{C}	-		\mathbf{R}					
Short-tailed Hawk	X	\mathbf{X}		-					
Swainson's Hawk	\mathbf{C}	-	U	\mathbf{R}					



 $\begin{array}{c} Clay\text{-}colored\ Thrush\\ \text{@ Allen Dale} \end{array}$

	Sp	S	F	W
Hummingbirds				
Green Violetear	X	X	_	_
Green-breasted Mango	_	X	_	_
Broad-billed Hummingbi		-	_	- X
Buff-bellied Hummingbir		\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	UU
Blue-throated Humming			X	
Ruby-throated Humming			R	CO
Black-chinned Humming			0	OU
0				
Anna's Hummingbird	-	-	_	X
Rufous Hummingbird	U	U	U	O
Trogons				
Elegant Trogon	-	X	-	-
Kingfishers				
Ringed Kingfisher*	U	U	U	_
Belted Kingfisher	U	O	U	U
<u>Green Kingfisher</u> *	U	U	U	U
Woodpeckers and Allies				
Golden-fr. Woodpecker*	A	A	A	A
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	-	_	U
Red-naped Sapsucker	-	-	X	
Ladder-bac. Woodpecker		\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	
Northern Flicker	R	-	X	X
Yellow-shafted	R	-	X	X
Red-shafted	R	-	X	X
Tyrant Flycatchers				
No. Beardless-Tyrannule	<u>t</u> *	U	U	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	-	U	-
Western Wood-Pewee	R	-	R	-
Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	-	0	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		-	0	
Acadian Flycatcher	0	O	0	
Alder Flycatcher	R	-	R	-
Willow Flycatcher	0	-	O	-
Least Flycatcher	U	-	U	
Black Phoebe	-	-	R	R
Eastern Phoebe	U		U	C
Say's Phoebe	R	-	R	
Vermillion Flycatcher	0		0	U
Ash-throated Flycatcher		X	-	-
Great Crested Flycatcher	.U	-	U	-

Brown-cr. Flycatcher*	C	CR
Great Kiskadee*	C	C
Tropical Kingbird	O U	0 0
Couch's Kingbird*	C	C U
Cassin's Kingbird	- X	
Western Kingbird	O R	R -
Eastern Kingbird	C -	C -
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	A O	CR
Rose-throated Becard*	R R	R R
Shrikes		
Loggerhead Shrike	U -	UU
Vireos		
White-eyed Vireo*	UU	UU
Bell's Vireo	R -	R R
Black-capped Vireo	X -	X X
Yellow-throated Vireo	0 -	О -
Blue-headed Vireo	U -	O U
	О -	О -
Philadelphia Vireo	О -	О -
Red-eyed Vireo	U -	U -
Yellow-green Vireo*	0 0	R -

Sp S

F W



 $\operatorname*{Green}_{\operatorname{USFWS}}Jay$

	Sp	S	F W
Jays and Crows			
Blue Jay	X	_	Х -
Green Jay*		С	
Brown Jav	-		X -
Tamaulipas Crow	X	X	X X
Chihuahuan Raven		_	R R
Larks			
Horned Lark	O	\mathbf{R}	0 0
Swallows			
Purple Martin	O	O	O R
Tree Swallow	O		0 0
No. Rough-winged Swalle	ow	\mathbf{C}	- CR
Bank Swallow	U		U -
Cliff Swallow	U	-	UR
Cave Swallow		U	
Barn Swallow	\mathbf{C}	-	CR
Chickadees and Titmice			
Carolina Chickadee	X	-	- X
Black-crested Titmouse*	С	С	C
Verdins		_	
Verdin*	O	O	0 0
Nuthatches			-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	- R
Creepers			
Brown Creeper	X	-	X X
Wrens			TT TT
Cactus Wren*	U		UU
Rock Wren	-	-	XR
Carolina Wren*	С		UU
Bewick's Wren*	0		0 0
House Wren	U		СС
Winter Wren	-		R R
Sedge Wren	0		- 0
Marsh Wren	U	-	U U
Kinglets Golden-crowned Kinglet			R O
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	- C	-	C A
Gnatcatchers	O	_	OA
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	С	0	CA
Thrushes	O	O	0 11
Eastern Bluebird	R	_	0 0
Western Bluebird	-	_	- X
Mountain Bluebird	X	_	- X
Townsend's Solitaire	_	_	- X
Veery	0	_	0 -
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U	_	0 -
Swainson's Thrush	U	_	О -
Hermit Thrush	O	-	O U
Wood Thrush	0	-	0 -
Clay-colored Thrush*	U	U	UU
White-throated Thrush	-	-	- X
Rufous-backed Robin	-	X	X -
American Robin	O	-	0 0
Mockingbirds and Thrashers			
Gray Catbird	O	-	O O
Northern Mockingbird*	С	С	C
Sage Thrasher	-	-	XX
Brown Thrasher	-	-	- R
Long-billed Thrasher*	С	_	C
Curve-billed Thrasher*	U	U	UU
Starlings		_	
European Starling*^	U	С	UU
Pipits	. -		
American Pipit	U	-	UU
Sprague's Pipit	-	-	OR



Pyrrl	hul	ox	ia		
Photogr	raph	by	Steve	Bents	en

	Sp	S	F W
Waxwings			
Cedar Waxwing	0	_	O U
Silky-Flycatchers			
Phainopepla	-	_	- X
Wood-Warblers			
Blue-winged Warbler	O	-	О -
Golden-winged Warbler	0	-	О -
Tennessee Warbler	U	-	U R
Orange-crowned Warbler	сC	-	C
Nashville Warbler	\mathbf{C}	-	U O
Virginia's Warbler	-	-	- X
Northern Parula	O	\mathbf{R}	O R
<u>Tropical Parula</u> *	O	O	0 0
Yellow Warbler	U	\mathbf{R}	UR
Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	-	U -
Magnolia Warbler	U	-	O R
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	-	-	- X
Yellow-rumped Warbler	\mathbf{C}	-	C
Myrtle	\mathbf{C}	-	C
Audubon's	O	-	$0 \ 0$
Black-thr. Gray Warbler	O	-	$0 \ 0$
Black-thr. Green Warbler	·U	-	UU
Townsend's Warbler	-	-	- X
Blackburnian Warbler	U	X	O R
Yellow-throated Warbler	O	-	O U
Pine Warbler	O	-	0 0
Prairie Warbler	-	-	- X
Palm Warbler	R	-	R R
Bay-breasted Warbler	U	-	ОХ
Blackpoll Warbler	\mathbf{R}	-	R -
Cerulean Warbler	U	-	
Black-and-white Warbler		-	C U
American Redstart	U	-	UR
Prothonotary Warbler	0	X	O X
Worm-eating Warbler	O	-	О -
Ovenbird	O	-	O R
Northern Waterthrush	O	-	O R
Louisiana Waterthrush	U	\mathbf{R}	UX
Kentucky Warbler	O	-	О -
Connecticut Warbler	X	-	X -
Mourning Warbler	U	-	О -

	Sp	s	F	w	
MacGillivary's Warbler	R	_	R	_	Blackbirds
Common Yellowthroat*	\mathbf{C}	U	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	Red-winged
Gray-crowned Yellowthro	<u>oat</u>	\mathbf{X}	X	XX	Eastern Mea
Hooded Warbler	O	-	O	\mathbf{X}	Western Mea
Wilson's Warbler	U	-	U	U	Yellow-heade
Canada Warbler	U	-	O	\mathbf{X}	Brewer's Bla
Golden-crowned Warbler	X	-	X	\mathbf{X}	Common Gra
Yellow-breasted Chat	U	O	U	\mathbf{R}	Great-tailed
Tanagers					Bronzed Cov
Summer Tanager	U	-	O	-	Brown-heade
Scarlet Tanager	O	-	O	-	Orchard Orio
Western Tanager	X	-	X	X	Hooded Orio
Towhees, Sparrows, and Allies	S				Bullock's Ori
White-collared Seedeater	<u>r</u> R	\mathbf{R}	-	-	<u>Altamira Ori</u>
Yellow-faced Grassquit	-	-	-	\mathbf{X}	<u>Audubon's O</u>
<u>Olive Sparrow</u> *	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	Baltimore Or
Green-tailed Towhee	-	-	O	O	Finches
Spotted Towhee	\mathbf{R}	-	\mathbf{X}	\mathbf{R}	Purple Finch
Eastern Towhee	-	-	-	\mathbf{R}	House Finch
Cassin's Sparrow	U	O	O	O	Red Crossbil
Chipping Sparrow	O	-	-	U	Pine Siskin
Clay-colored Sparrow	O	-	O	O	Lesser Goldf
Field Sparrow	-	-	O	O	American Go
Vesper Sparrow	O	-	O	O	Old World Sparro
Lark Sparrow*	U	\mathbf{R}	U	U	House Sparr
Black-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	\mathbf{R}	
Lark Bunting	-	-	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}	The following ar
Savannah Sparrow	\mathbf{C}	-	$^{\mathrm{C}}$	\mathbf{C}	have never been
Grasshopper Sparrow	O	-	\mathbf{R}	O	based on records
Le Conte's Sparrow	\mathbf{R}	-	-	\mathbf{R}	$and\ any\ other\ sp$
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	X	$this\ list\ to\ the\ re$
Song Sparrow	O	-	R	\mathbf{R}	
Lincoln's Sparrow	\mathbf{C}	-	\mathbf{C}	A	Horned Grebe
Swamp Sparrow	\mathbf{R}	-	R	U	Cassin's Vireo
White-throated Sparrow	R	-	R	\mathbf{R}	Jabiru
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}	Black-tailed Gna
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	R	\mathbf{R}	Rough-legged H
Slate-colored	-	-	R	R	Rufous-capped V
Oregon	-	-	\mathbf{R}	R	Ruddy Turnston
Cardinals and Allies				37	Rusty Blackbird
Crimson-col. Grosbeak	-	-	-	X	Fork-tailed Flyc
Northern Cardinal*	C	C	C	C	
Pyrrhuloxia*	0	0	0	0	July 2011
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		-	0	- D	
Black-headed Grosbeak	R	-	R	R	
Blue Bunting	R	-	X	R	
Blue Grosbeak	U	- V	О	-	
Lazuli Bunting	X	X	-	- D	
Indigo Bunting	U	- V	O	R	
Varied Bunting	X	X	-	-	
Painted Bunting*	U	0	0	-	
Dickcissel	С	О	С	-	

Blackbirds				
Red-winged Blackbird*	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}	A	A
Eastern Meadowlark*	\mathbf{C}	0	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
Western Meadowlark	R	-	\mathbf{R}	O
Yellow-headed Blackbird	\mathbf{R}	-	-	\mathbf{R}
Brewer's Blackbird	\mathbf{R}	-	O	O
Common Grackle	X	-	-	\mathbf{X}
Great-tailed Grackle*	A	A	A	A
Bronzed Cowbird*	\mathbf{C}	A	U	O
Brown-headed Cowbird*	U	U	\mathbf{C}	\mathbf{C}
Orchard Oriole	U	U	O	-
Hooded Oriole*	0	O	O	O
Bullock's Oriole	0	\mathbf{R}	O	\mathbf{R}
Altamira Oriole*	U	U	U	U
Audubon's Oriole	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}
Baltimore Oriole	\mathbf{C}	-	U	-
Finches				
Purple Finch	-	-	-	X
House Finch	-	-	-	\mathbf{R}
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	X
Pine Siskin	\mathbf{R}	-	\mathbf{R}	\mathbf{R}
Lesser Goldfinch	U	U	U	U
American Goldfinch	U	-	O	U
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow*^	U	U	U	U
The following are hypothetic	al k	oird	ls wh	ich

Sp S

F W

n recorded, but may occur ds nearby Please report these species which do not appear on efuge staff

atcatcher Hawk Warbler ne d catcher